

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 /065 W

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R 071845Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1225

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 00284

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT,PO

SUBJ: NAVY-CIVILIAN INCIDENT IN AZORES

REF: PONTA DELGADA 267

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT PORTUGUESE NAVY PATROL BOAT "ZAIRE" WHICH IS PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO NAVAL COMMAND IN AZORES WAS INVOLVED IN INCIDENT ON AZOREAN ISLAND OF SAO JORGE. ON AUGUST 6 SOME CREWMEMBERS WENT ASHORE IN TOWN OF VELAS AND BEGAN TO SHOUT INSULTS TO AZOREANS. TOWNSPEOPLE ARMED THEMSELVES WITH STICKS AND IRON BARS AND WENT AFTER SAILORS. BEFORE CLASH OCCURRED, WELL-RESPECTED SHIPPING DELEGATE INTERVENED AND SAILORS RETREATED TO THEIR BOAT AFTER EXCHANGING INSULTS WITH LOCAL POPULATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS OFFICIALS OF VELAS HAVE REPORTED INCIDENT TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN HORTA, THE DISTRICT CAPITAL, AND TO NAVAL COMMAND IN PONTA DELGADA.

2. COMMENT: LOCAL PRESS REPORTS OF LOCAL INCIDENTS ARE USUALLY ACCURATE. WE ARE SURPRISED THAT CREW FROM "ZAIRE" WHICH IS USUALLY TIED UP IN PONTA DELGADA'S HARBOR WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THIS TYPE OF INCIDENT. IT DEMONSTRATES DEGREE OF TENSION PRESENT THROUGHOUT AZORES. THIS SECOND CASE OF
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RUN-IN BETWEEN SAILORS AND CIVILIANS IN MONTH WILL INCREASE

UNPOPULARITY OF PORTUGUESE NAVY ALREADY DISLIKED AN DIS-
TRUSTED HERE FOR ALLEGED LEFTIST VIEWS. WE HAVE HEARD THAT UN-
POPULAR COMMANDER OF NAVAL FORCES IN AZORES, RICCOU,
WILL RE REPLACED BY AZOREAN OFFICER. THIS MIGHT HELP
ELIMINATE SOME OF DISTRUST OF NAVY.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: buchant0
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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